

To Whom It May Concern:

There is an abundance of evidence that supports the positive and essential role school social workers play in preventing violence amongst students. Whether the violence is directed outwards in the form of bullying or physical aggression or directed inwards in the form of self injurious behavior and suicide, school social workers have shown that they are uniquely qualified to intervene and produce healthy outcomes.

School social work brings a unique and comprehensive approach that other professions lack. Our training and our ongoing research prepare us to manage the most challenging students. In addition because we are housed in the school our understanding and connection to students, staff and the community is superior to any outside consultant or therapist.

The National Association of Social Workers recommends that staffing for school social workers be at a ratio of 1 social worker for every 250 students. I doubt that any school system in Connecticut currently meets this level of staffing.

I highly recommend that you consider mandating increased staffing levels for school social workers throughout the state.

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